

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 AGR-20 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OPIC-12 DRC-01 /221 W

----- 015314

P R 201100Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7294

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECLAS 12/31/73

TAGS: EAGR, VS

SUBJECT: RICE SITREP FOR AUGUST 1973

REF: (A) SAIGON 16528 (D) SAIGON 16036

(B) STATE 183803 (E) STATE 176666

(C) SAIGON 16461

1. SUMMARY. ALL SCHEDULED IMPORTS EXCEPT FOR APPROXIMATELY 25,000 MT REMAINING FROM KOREA DIVERSION NOW ARRIVED. GVN CONTINUES TO EXERT VERY HEAVY PRESSURE ON DELTA MERCHANTS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS TO DELIVER MORE RICE TO SAIGON. BULK OF RICE BEING DELIVERED IS NEW CROP TN RICE. NEARLY ALL CURRENT DELIVERIES EXCEPT FOR AMOUNT GOING TO PRIVATE SECTOR IN CENTRAL VIETNAM ARE BEING MADE TO MOE. TREND IS TOWARD GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF LARGEST POSSIBLE STOCK TO BE ISSUED ON ESSENTIAL NEED BASIS, RATIONED AS NECESSARY. SPECIAL MEASURES BEGUN JULY TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES IN CENTRAL VIETNAM ARE CONTINUING.

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END OF SUMMARY.

2. END AUGUST SAIGON AND CENTRAL VIETNAM STOCKS (000 MT)

SAIGON IMPORTED	43.7
SAIGON DOMESTIC	7.0
SAIGON PRIVATE	7.6
DEFICIT PROVINCES	64.0
TOTAL	122.3

3. APPARENT AUGUST CONSUMPTION (000 MT)

END JULY STOCKS	120.5
DELTA DELIVERIES	54.1
IMPORTS	26.7
TOTAL AVAILABLE	201.3
MINUS END AUGUST STOCKS	122.3
EQUALS APPARENT CONSUMPTION	79.0

4. AUGUST IMPORTS INCLUDE 13,560 MT TO CLOSE OUT PA 45-746 AND 13,000 MT FROM KOREA DIVERSION. SEPTEMBER IMPORTS THROUGH 18TH INCLUDE 13,982 MT TO CLOSE OUT PA 45-737 AND 9,450 MT FROM KOREA DIVERSION. ALL REMAINING SCHEDULED IMPORTS ARE FROM KOREA DIVERSION AND TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 25,000 MT. CRITICAL NEED FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTS BEFORE END DECEMBER DISCUSSED REFS A, C, D.

5. AUGUST DELTA DELIVERY DATA GIVEN AND DISCUSSED IN REF D. ALL BUT A FEW THOUSAND TONS OF RICE ARRIVING IN SAIGON ARE BEING DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENT. PRIVATE SECTOR SALES DESTINED FOR CENTRAL VIETNAM CONSTITUTE VIRTUALLY ALL CURRENT FREE MARKET WHOLESALE ACTIVITY.

6. RIGOROUS MOE CONTROL OF ISSUANCES FROM GOVERNMENT STOCKS IS IN LINE WITH MOE AND MISSION BELIEF THAT NOT MUCH MORE RICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE DELTA AND THAT GOVERNMENT STOCKS WILL HAVE TO BE STRETCHED TO MEET NEARLY ALL SECTOR NEEDS NOW THROUGH AT LEAST END NOVEMBER.

7. PRICES

A. DELTA PADDY AT THE MILL (WEIGHTED AVERAGE PER 100 KILOS)  
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JUNE 1	JULY 1	AUG 1	AUG 15	SEPT 1	
HIGH QUALITY	6033	6382	8345	9605	9440
MEDIUM QUALITY	5605	6270	7759	8935	8689

B. SAIGON WHOLESALE RICE PRICES (100 KILOS)

CEILING

AUG 25 SEPT 1 SEPT 10 SEPT 15 PRICE  
NANG HUONG 17,600 17,600 17,800 17,800 NONE  
SOC NAU 13,500 13,700 14,700 14,500 12,500  
NO. 1, 25 PERCENT 12,850 13,000 14,100 13,800 12,000  
IR-8 12,300 12,500 13,100 12,800 11,800

C. SAIGON RETAIL RICE PRICES (100 KILOS)

CEILING  
AUG 25 SEPT 6 SEPT 10 SEPT 17 PRICE  
NANG HUONG 18,500 18,500 18,800 18,800 NONE  
SOC NAU 14,100 14,800 15,000 14,800 13,100  
NO. 1, 25 PERCENT 13,500 14,000 14,500 14,000 12,580  
U.S. MEDIUM 14,200 14,500 14,500 14,500 14,000  
U.S. LONG 15,200 15,600 15,800 16,000 14,600

8. CEILING PRICE FOR MEDIUM QUALITY PADDY VARIES FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE FROM A LOW OF VN\$5500 TO A HIGH OF VN\$7500. CLEARLY, THE AVERAGE PADDY PRICE IS WELL ABOVE THE CEILING.

9. WHILE ALL PADDY AND RICE PRICES ARE TECHNICALLY CONTROLLED, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE AGVOE MOST SALES ARE TECHNICALLY CONTROLLED, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM THE ABOVE MOST SALES TO DATE OTHER THAN WHOLESALE DELIVERIES CONTRACTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ARE NOT WITHIN THE CONTROL RANGE INDICATING PRESSURE ON TOTAL SUPPLY. MERCHANTS HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE OFFICIAL RETAIL RICE PRICES ONE THOUSAND PIASTERS PER 100 KILOS. THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST. IT IS ALSO CONSIDERING SETTING UP OFFICIAL RETAIL SALES STATIONS WHERE BOTH DISTRIBUTION FROM GSA STOCKS AND PRICES CAN BE CLOSELY CONTROLLED.

10. SHARP REDUCTIONS IN DELTA DELIVERIES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO CURTAILMENT OR CLOSING AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF A LARGE NUMBER OF THE RETAIL SALES OUTLETS IN SAIGON AND HAS SIMILARLY AFFECTED WHOLESALE OPERATIONS.

11. THE SUPPLY AND PRICE SITUATION IN CENTRAL VIETNAM CONTINUES TO BE STABLE AS THE SPECIAL SALES OFFER MENTIONED PARA 16, REF D REMAINS IN EFFECT.

APPLING

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## Message Attributes

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